March of Dimes Support Urged by Mother Who Lost Birth Defects Baby in 49 Days

(Editor's Note: Mary Strous, young Laurelville, Ohio, mother, tells in her own words the tragic story of what happens in a family when a child is born with a serious birth defect.)

By MARY STROUS

Our baby Laura was born on Mother's Day seven years ago.

We lost Laura seven weeks later on Father's Day.

She gave a soft little sigh as she died in my arms. My husband and I buried her with the rattle to which she had clung tightly during her brief life.

But Laura, who died of the terrible birth defects known as open spine and too much fluid on the brain, still lives in the hearts of her father Don and myself. When asked by strangers, we always say we have three daughters (instead of really only two), and I want to explain why.

We feel that each of us, including our tiny Laura, is brought into the world to serve a purpose, even if our stay on earth is as tragically short as 49 days.

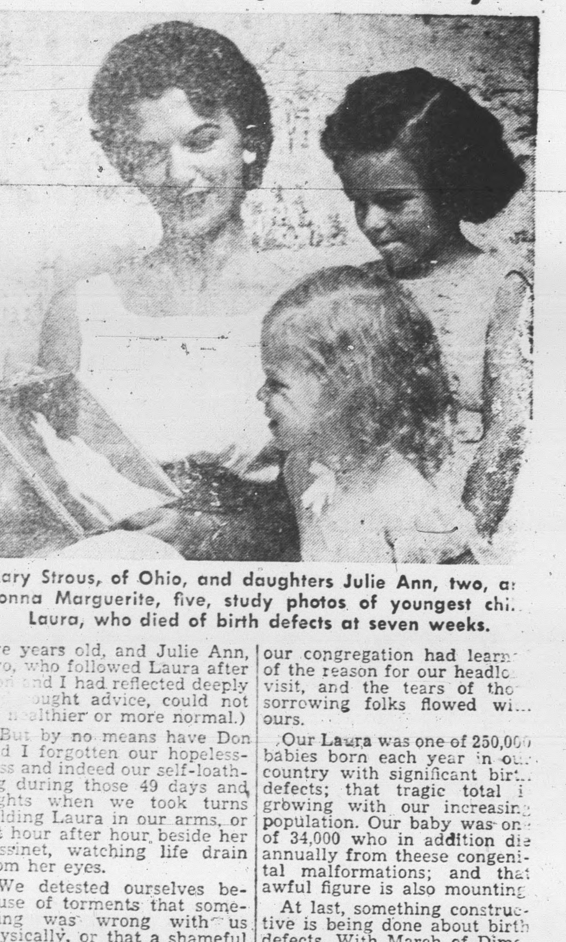
For years we were numbed by our baby's passing. But today we recognize that in being asked by The National Foundation to renew our memories of those despairing seven weeks, my husband and I are somehow fulfilling the purpose of Laura's fleeting visit with us.

That purpose is to repeat as forcefully as we can the lessons we have learned:

1. Scientists insist that parents should not be ashamed over the birth of an infant with a congenital malformation; instead, face the situation bravely and seek professional advice. Feelings of guilt aren't justified.

2. There is no medical evidence that birth defects are *always* hereditary; and

3. There is no evidence that because a couple have had one defective baby, they are likely to have another. Doctors at Columbus, Ohio, near our farm at Laurelville, said our chances of having another malformed baby were something like one in 40,000. (Donna Marguerite, five years old, and Julie Ann, two, who followed Laura after Don and I had reflected deeply and sought advice, could not be healthier or more normal.)



Mary Strous, of Ohio, and daughters Julie Ann, two, and Donna Marguerite, five, study photos of youngest child Laura, who died of birth defects at seven weeks.

But by no means have Don and I forgotten our hopelessness and indeed our self-loathing during those 49 days and nights when we took turns holding Laura in our arms, or sat hour after hour beside her bassinet, watching life drain from her eyes.

We detested ourselves because of torments that something was wrong with us physically, or that a shameful defect had been inherited from our forebears (later proved untrue), and that we were thus responsible for this cruelty to an innocent baby.

Never will we forget the frantic drive, while our baby was dying, to our church so that she might be baptized before she left us. In some way our congregation had learned of the reason for our headlong visit, and the tears of those sorrowing folks flowed with ours.

Our Laura was one of 250,000 babies born each year in our country with significant birth defects; that tragic total is growing with our increasing population. Our baby was one of 34,000 who in addition die annually from theese congenital malformations; and that awful figure is also mounting.

At last, something constructive is being done about birth defects. With March of Dimes contributions, The National Foundation is directing a broad study of this devastating puzzle, just as it fought polio and in time found the Salk vaccine to prevent it.

With a donation in January from each of us, in time there will be many fewer Lauras in our land.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Bring Results!

PERSONALS

Sammy Carter spent the week-end in Roanoke, Va., with his mother.

Mrs. Eunice Gallier Ferguson of Crewe, visited friends here Tuesday and ednesday. Mrs. Ferguson attended the Regional Sunday School Work Shop Clinic at Liberty Baptist Church Monday.

Mrs. Rachel F. Lawson was hostess at a buffet dinner Sunday evening to the young people of Memorial Methodist Church. Assisting Mrs. Lawson in serving the 40 guests were Mrs. Morton L. Ferguson, Mrs. S. R. Lawson and Mrs. Fred H. Lawson.

Mrs. Henry B. Pack underwent an operation at the Lynchburg General Hospital Monday. Her condition is satisfactory and she will return home today.

Emil T. Bruce suffered a broken ankle and heel when he fell Saturday afternoon while working at the Frozen Food Locker. He is a patient at the Virginia Baptist Hospital.

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, on August 9th, 1960, God in His all-wise Providence called from our midset to her Eternal home, our member and friend, Mrs. Clara Matilda Mann Moses; and

WHERAS, she had been a faithful and consistent member of Memorial Methodist Church, Appomattox, Virginia, for more than fifty years, and had given herself unreservedly to tha entire program of work by regular attendance at all services, giving of her means, and maintaining a strong faith and deep interest in the cause of Christ, even throughout the long days she was confined to her home by the infirmities of age; and

WHEREAS, she was a devoted wife and Mother, a trusted friend and a kind, sympathetic neighbor, in whose daily life the virtues of Christian character found distinct expression, and whose passing has left a vacancy which will be keenly felt by the entire community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST: That we offer this tribute of respect to her memory, and record our expression of appreciation for her unfailing support of this Church and this organization through the years;

SECOND: That we express to her Family our sincere sympathy in their loss, which we share, and commend them to the sustaining power of Him, who is the source of all comfort and help;

THIRD: That a copy of these resolutions be published in The Times-Virginian, a copy sent to the Family and a copy spread upon the minutes of this Society.

Mrs. Lottie Bledsoe
Mrs. H. M. Burge
Mrs. Claude W. Smith
Committee.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, Memorial Methodist Church, Appomattox, Virginia.
(1tc)

Opportunities At Liberty

Sunday September 18, 9:45 A. M. Bible Study
11:00 A. M. Morning Worship; Sermon Topic-"Reviving What?"
6:15 P. M. Celestial Choir
7:00 P. M. Training Union.
8:00 P. M. Evening Worship-"Our Mission-Virginia", led by the Royal Ambassadors.
Monda Sept. 19 3:30 P. M. Carol Choir
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 7:00 P. M. Concord Choir
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7:30 P. M. Cottage Prayer Meetings for Revival 8:15 P. M. Church Choir
Thursday, Sept. 22, 3:30 P. M. Cherub Choir
Friday, Sept. 23, 7:30 P. M.

Associational W.M.U. Workshop at Farmville Baptist Church

Appomattox Methodist Circuit
Aaron D. Smith, Pastor
10 A. M. Mt. Comfort
"Fit For The Kingdom"
11:15 A. M. Sermon
"Facing Opportunity"

Mr. and Mrs. John ... Sr., of Spout Spring, ... engagement of their ... let Mae, to William ... son of Mr. and Mrs. ... Erie, Pa. The wedding ... place Friday, Sept. 16, ... M., at the Spout Spring ... Church. Although no ... being issued, relatives ... are expected to attend.

Subscription rates ... payable in advance.

Ireland leads in per ... supply.

EHRICH'S
Optometrist and Opticians
1107 MAIN ST. — LYNCHBURG
Hours 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. — Wed. 1 p. m.

BIGGEST BUYS HERE
QUALITY USED CARS

FINAL Clearance Sale of 1960 Fords

1—1960 Galaxie 4 Door V8 Crusi O-Matic Transmision, Radio, Heater, White side wall tires and Wheel Covers Black — 2500.00

1—1960 Ranch Wagon 2 Door V8 Fodromatic Transmission and Heater Green 2375.00

1 Falcon 4 Door Delux, Radio, Heater, Fordomatic Transmission and white wall Tires Red and White 2175.00

1 Falcon 4 Door, Deluxe Trim Heater and White side wall Tires Red and White 1895.00

1—Falcon 2 Door Heater Light Blue 1775.00

1—Falcon 2 Door — Heater Light Green 1775.00

Grinels Motor Co.
APPOMATTOX, VA. ROUTE 460
LICENSE NO. 729 PHONE 352-2121

Use 800 to 1,000 pounds of Smith-Douglass SQUARE DEAL at seeding time for stronger and longer-lived stands. SQUARE DEAL guarantees six plant foods to stimulate early root growth... gives seedlings a rapid, vigorous start and winter hardiness.

TREL, Smith-Douglass' exclusive formula of trace elements, is added to each ton to help produce strong and sturdy pastures that are disease-resistant.

Fall is an ideal time to topdress established pastures. Be sure to order Smith-Douglass Square Deal. Pick the analysis to suit your mixture of grass and legumes.

ORDER SMITH-DOUGLASS SQUARE DEAL NOW FROM

H. C. BABCOCK STORE, Appomattox
J. T. BURLEIGH, Concord
T. O. DAVIDSON, Appomattox
F. H. GOWIN, R-3, Dillwyn
HIX - CARSON BROS., Inc., Prospect
W. RONALD PAULETTE, Appomattox
R. & K. GROCEY, Pamplin

SD SMITH-DOUGLASS FERTILIZER

WEST END MARKET

Route 460 Appomattox

FREE

2 lb. Bag, Plain or Self-Rising Dan Valley FLOUR with purchase of 10 lbs. or more -

- 25 LB. BAG 1.75
- 10 LB. BAG .75
- 5 LB. BAG .39

FRESH FROZEN FOODS

Flavor Treat Lemonade 6 oz. can .10

FROSTY ACRES FRENCH FRIED POTATOES 1 lb. pkg. .35

FROSTY ACRES BROCCOLI 2 - 8 oz. pkg. .39

BIGGER FOOD VALUES

NABISCO Peanut Cake 6 1-2 oz. pkg. .33

Strietmann Frosted Chocolate Bars 12 1-4 pkg. .39

Sunshine Krispy Crackers 1 lb. Box .29

BROOM .79 ea.

BLUE CHEER Washing Powder King Size Box 1.25

ARMOUR STAR CHILI without beans 2 - 26 oz. can 1.00

PHILLIPS PORK & BEANS 9 Can. 1.00
BRUSH CREEK PEACHES 2 No. 2 1-2 Cans. .49
GWALTNEY PURE LARD 6 lbs. 1.00

BUNKER HILL BEEF & BEEF STOCK 303 Can .57

Q Q SALMON 16 oz. Can .57

CHUCKROAST Our Choice lb. .49

LUTERS FRANKS all meat pkg. .49

Peppers Lb 19c

Sweet Potatoes 3 lbs. 19c

ONIONS 3 lbs. .19

CLOVERBLOOM 99 Margarine 6 lb. 1.00

Fleecy White Bleach 1-2 gal. .30

Hollywood

The Hollywood community is enjoying the new telephones which were installed last Thursday.

Everyone enjoyed the social had by the Hollywood B. T. U. Saturday night.

Mr. David Austin is on the sick list at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Joley visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe G. in Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Austin visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banton awhile Monday night.

Mr. Elmo Banton and family visited in the home of Mrs. Charles Banton over the week end.

ABOUT YOUR HOME

Contemporary decorating seems to be the most popular type of decorating today. The reason for this must be that it is a blending of the old and the new.

The moderns consider the function of a building or of furniture, and make beauty and line conform to the need. The other extreme are the lovers of the traditional in architecture and furnishinfis, regardless of comfort and usefulness.

This blending of ideas has 2displayed much ornament, simplified the wall surfaces of interiors, enlarged windows, used artificial light, brought in lighter colors in fabrics and woods.

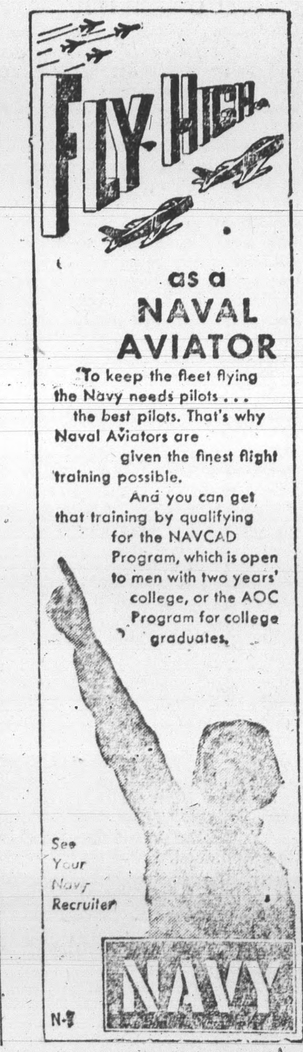
The stuffiness has been taken out of rooms and the clutter cleared away. The beauty of period furniture has been combined with clearer colors and newer weaves of textured fabrics.

Contemporary decorating means freedom from limitations. It allows the imagination to play. If colors are harmonious and the scale is right, choose furniture from any period you like.

Huge radar in Alaska nears completion.

Soviet keeps exchange program going.

Jet watching gaining as a spectator sport.

Paint yourself a rosy future!

BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
Where you work or where you bank
Now paying to maturity 3 3/4%